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Date: August 7, 2018
To: Local Media
From: Ann Hartman, MPH, Assistant Director- Community Health

Please publish the attached press release as soon as possible. If you have any questions you may call me at 860-721-2824. Thank you.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health District Reminds Residents to Take Extra Care to Prevent Mosquito Bites: Mosquitos in Health District Town Test Positive for West Nile Virus

Central CT Health District (CCHD) received notification that three types of mosquitos from the Wethersfield monitoring site on Goff Road tested positive this week for West Nile Virus. The mosquitos are all in the *Culex* family (*Culex pipiens*, *Culex restuans*, and *Culex salinarius*). Both the *Culex pipiens* and *Culex restuans* usually bite or feed on birds, however they will bite people if their breeding sites are close to homes. Both the *Culex pipiens* and *Culex restuans* breed in standing water, especially water containing organic matter. These types of mosquitos are most active at dawn and dusk. *Culex salinarius* feeds indiscriminately on birds and mammals, and will readily bite people. It is found in fresh and saltwater marshes, lakes, ponds and man-made containers around homes. *Culex salinarius* is active from sunset to sunrise.

Testing begins in early June and continues through the late fall. Test results are reported weekly, and mosquito monitoring is conducted each year through the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). Mosquitoes are collected from over 90 test sites in 73 municipalities around the State to detect the presence of viruses that can cause illness in people, such as West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE) and Zika Virus. The two collection sites within the Health District are located at Churchill Park in Newington and Goff Road in Wethersfield. There have been no human cases of West Nile Virus identified in Connecticut so far this year.

To reduce the risks of acquiring a mosquito-borne illness, the following steps are suggested to prevent you and your family from mosquito bites:

- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors; don't forget to cover the arms and legs of children. Clothing should be light colored and made of tightly woven materials that keep mosquitoes away from the skin.
- Cover babies' playpens and carriages with mosquito netting when outdoors.
- Eliminate sources of standing water around your home such as stagnant ponds, ditches, flower pots and old tires, as mosquito only needs a few tablespoons of water to lay eggs. Drain children's pools, clean clogged gutters, and flush birdbaths and fountains once or twice a week. Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, and any similar containers that have accumulated on your property, and drill holes in the bottoms of recycling and garbage containers that are left outside.
- Use an effective insect repellent such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), 2-undecanone which are EPA-registered repellents.

Anyone with questions or concerns about mosquito control or any public health issue may contact the Central Connecticut Health District, serving the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield, at www.ccthd.org or "liking" our Facebook page and following us on Twitter @CCTHD4. Additional information about mosquito control can also be obtained from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station at www.ct.gov.caes and the Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/westnile/prevention.